



Clark County Health Department Fact Sheet

Cleaning Tips After a Flood

Cleaning and disinfecting your home after a flood will help prevent the spread of disease and restore its livability. The Red Cross and other organizations often distribute clean-up kits after a disaster.

Cleaning supplies checklist

- Brooms, mops, rags, brushes, sponges, wet vacuums
- Buckets, garden hose, rubber gloves
- Cleaning products, disinfectants
- Lubricating oil, trash bags, fans or dryers

Cleaning products

You can use most household cleaning products. Clean one area at a time.

- **Read the label for safe and proper use of the product.** Some products cannot be used on certain materials or surfaces.
- Use a two-bucket approach; one bucket for cleaning solutions and the other for rinse water.
- Rinse out your mop, sponge or rag in the rinse bucket. Replace the rinse water often.
- After cleaning, use a disinfectant to kill germs and neutralize odors.

Disinfectants

You can use commercial disinfectants or you can make your own disinfectant by adding 1/4 cup of liquid household bleach (such as Clorox or Purex) to a gallon of water.

- If you buy a disinfectant, you must follow the product label instructions exactly for the disinfectant to work.
- **Never mix bleach with any cleaning products; mixing can create toxic gases.**
- Empty buckets after each use.

Drying

- Ventilating wet spaces aids in drying.
- All windows and doors should be opened, and fans and heaters used to speed drying.
- When drying machines are available, windows and doors should be closed and drying machines vented to the outdoors.

Warning: drowning hazard

Do not leave cleaning buckets containing even small amounts of liquids unattended near children. Young children can drown in very small amounts of water.

For more information, call the Health Department at (360) 397-8428.